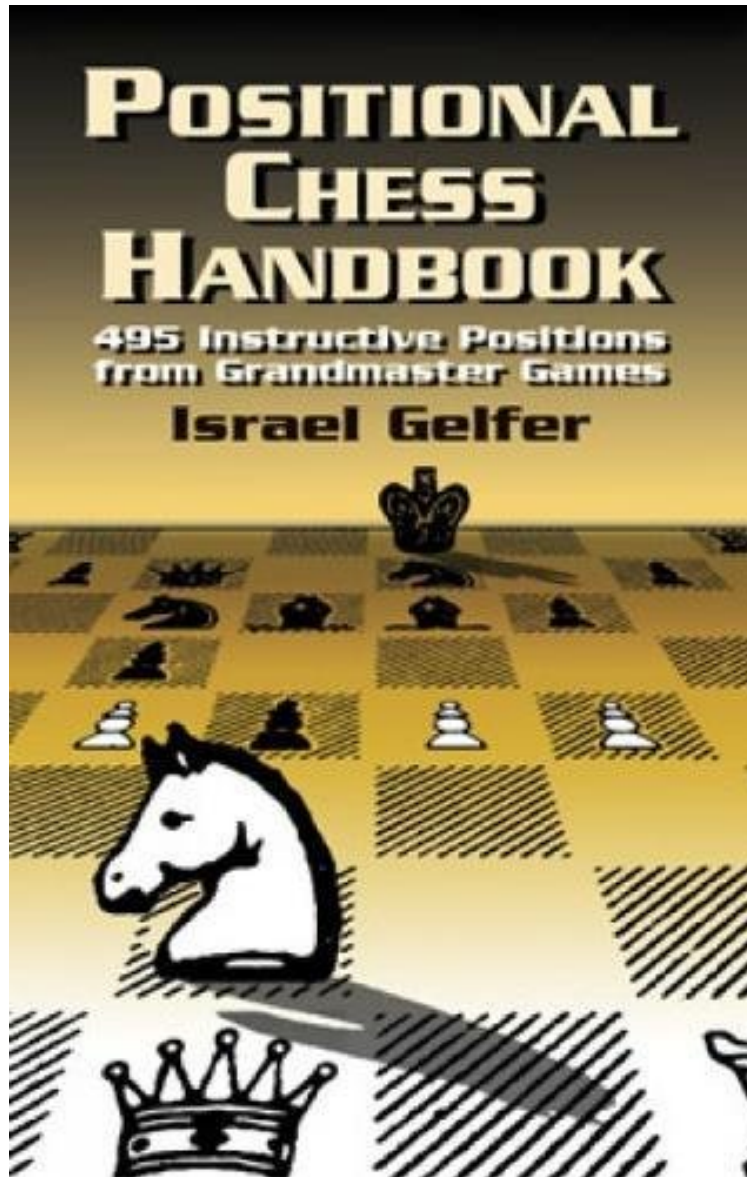


[Free] Positional Chess Handbook: 495 Instructive Positions from Grandmaster Games (Dover Chess)

## Positional Chess Handbook: 495 Instructive Positions from Grandmaster Games (Dover Chess)

*Israel Gelfer*

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**Israel Gelfer : Positional Chess Handbook: 495 Instructive Positions from Grandmaster Games (Dover Chess)**  
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Positional Chess  
Handbook: 495 Instructive Positions from Grandmaster Games (Dover Chess):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Jumpstart Your Collection of Strategic Chess Positions  
By Customer  
This book is what it claims to be: 495 position divided into positional/strategic themes. The type is clear, the pages white, and the binding good. All standard for Dover publications. The positions come from the games of grandmasters from the last 150 years (up to 1991, the book's publication date). The commentary is succinct mixed with short variations in algebraic notation. There's an index of players. The players with the most games (approximately 30 each) are Botvinnik, Fischer, Smyslov, and Karpov. Of course, many other players are represented. Is this book useful for improving your play? There are a number of ways to try and improve your chess. You can study openings, learn endgames, practice tactics. All are valid and necessary. At some point, however, you will also have to study positions with particular emphasis on identifying and implementing strategic ideas. One of the tried and true methods of gaining skill in this area is by collecting positions from grandmaster play, and studying them thoroughly. Some have complained that since this book was published without the help of today's strongest chess engines, that it cannot be any good. I think this misses the point. This book helps you develop your ability to identify and exploit key strategic elements of a given position. The only way to develop this ability is by studying positions thoroughly. It matters not at all whether less than correct moves were played, or that the variations may be less than perfect. The point is that you have to study positions, be able to identify strategic objectives, and execute a plan. This book gives you important positions from grandmaster games, grouped into well known strategic themes. Having been relieved of the burden of finding positions in the first place, you are able to get to the hard work of studying immediately. Also, if desired, it is very easy to find the entire game using your favorite chess database. If you want to jumpstart your collection of strategic positions, categorized by themes then this book is for you. Recommended  
16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Excellent selections, concise explanations, poor graphics  
By Timothy N. dePlume  
The selection of game vignettes to illustrate each theme is outstanding. That aspect of this book reminds me of Andy Soltis's Chess Life columns. Finding just the right examples from among the millions of master games is by far the hardest part of assembling a work such as this. The annotations are just right for me: On point, insightful, and they don't explain the obvious but give lines that show clearly the dynamics of each vignette. I'm a 2200 player, a strong expert or weak master, whichever way you want to view it. Anyone from Class A to GM would enjoy reading this book. There are better books, with more instructional prose annotations, for players under 1700 or so. The paper and printing quality of this book was a real disappointment. It was printed on pulp paper, just a bit heavier than the stuff newspapers are printed on, and the diagrams are so faintly printed the eye has to strain to see where all the pieces are. No big deal to do once, but doing it 495 times unnecessarily taxes the reader. A five-star book produced by a two-star publisher yields four stars.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Customer  
Well written... now if I can only use these tactics in real life! :)

A dramatic sacrifice might seem like the best way to achieve a dazzling, come-from-behind victory, however, the outcome of most chess matches, depends on the participants' positional skills. The first player to establish a positional advantage gains the best chance of a successful direct attack. This complete guide, written by an Israeli grandmaster, offers valuable insights in developing a more powerful strategic game. It spans a century and a half of international chess, from the era of the legendary Paul Morphy in the 1850s to that of the modern powerhouse Gary Kasparov. The author focuses on common situations arising from practical over-the-board play. Examples on such themes as key squares, bad bishops, and pawn structures appear in ascending difficulty, with ample cross-reference. Derived from the author's own coaching manuals, these instructive examples successfully assisted in training Israel's top juniors and the champions of the Israeli women's national team. Chess players at every level will benefit from this opportunity to develop an intuitive grasp of each concept and strengthen their positional play.

Language Notes  
Text: English (translation) Original Language: Hebrew